U.S. Patent Application. Serial No. 10/806,712
Title: Automatic Content Display Apparatus and Method
Inventor(s): Nishikawa et al.
Filing Date: March 23, 2004
Document: Response to Office Action of December 9, 2008

Attorney Docket No. 81232.7114

REMARKS

The Applicants hereby thank the Examiner for the observations in the outstanding non-final Office Action. Independent Claims 1, 9, and 15 are herein amended and dependent Claim 20 is herein added to better encompass the full scope and breadth of the present invention, notwithstanding the Applicants' belief that the Claims would have been allowable as originally filed as well as herein amended. The foregoing amendments are believed to be fully supported by the priority document, U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/520,752, entitled "Ring Interface for TV Programming Guide," filed on November 17, 2003. The Applicants respectfully assert that no claim has been narrowed within the meaning of *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.* (Fed.Cir. November 29, 2000). Therefore, reconsideration of the present application in light of the foregoing amendment and these remarks is respectfully requested. However, should any remaining issues be outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at (805) 781-2865 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

I.   Rejection of Claims 1-8 and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-8 and 15-19 stand rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Knudson et al. (US 7386871), in view of Ahmad et al. (US 6263507). Independent Claims 1 and 15 are herein amended to include the following limitations: "providing a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable items of data, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for each at least one user, wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across a plurality of media[.]" The Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds for rejection on this basis.

With respect to the primary cited reference, Knudson merely discloses: "A program guide system is provided in which an interactive television program guide that is implemented at least partially on user television equipment receives program listings data and real-time data such as sports scores, news data, and the like. The real-time data may be stored in a database maintained by the program guide, so that the program guide may access the stored real-time data at a later time.

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Updated program listings information may be provided to the program guide as part of the data stream in which the real-time data is provided. Unique keys may be generated for the program listings data and real-time data associated with each live event. The keys may be compared at the program guide to determine which program listings correspond to which items of real-time data. A controllable ticker may be displayed on top of a television program on the user television equipment. The controllable ticker may be sponsored. Different types of real-time data may be assigned different expiration times. When data has expired it may be removed from the database." (Abstract).

With respect to the secondary cited reference, Ahmad merely discloses: "The invention facilitates and enhances review of a body of information (that can be represented by a set of audio data, video data, text data or some combination of the three), enabling the body of information to be quickly reviewed to obtain an overview of the content of the body of information and allowing flexibility in the manner in which the body of information is reviewed. In a particular application of the invention, the content of audiovisual news programs is acquired from a first set of one or more information sources (e.g., television news programs) and text news stories are acquired from a second set of one or more information sources (e.g., on-line news services or news wire services). In such a particular application, the invention can enable the user to access the news stories of audiovisual news programs in a random manner so that the user can move quickly among news stories or news programs. The invention can also enable the user to quickly locate news stories pertaining to a particular subject. Additionally, when the user is observing a particular news story in a news program, the invention can identify and display related news stories. The invention can also enable the user to control the display of the news programs by, for example, speeding up the display, causing a summary of one or more news stories to be displayed, or pausing the display of the news stories. Additionally, the invention can indicate to the user which news story is currently being viewed, as well as which news stories have previously been viewed." (Abstract).

Regarding the cited art, the Examiner concedes that "Knudson … does not disclose automatically displaying additional content as corresponds to the characterizing descriptors for a given one of the discrete indicators as interacts in a predetermined way, at least in part, with the segregated display area[,]" but the Examiner asserts that "Ahmad teaches automatically displaying

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additional, related information based on the current position of a marker in relation to a segment of a multi-segmented piece of audio-visual content ....."

In contrast to the cited art, the present invention involves the following features: "a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable items of data, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for at least one user, wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across a plurality of media[,]" *inter alia*. As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art does not teach, suggest, motivate, or otherwise obviate the combination of elements and limitations, *inter alia*, as respectively recited in herein amended independent Claims 1 and 15, the salient features being italicized as follows:

1.   A method *of automatically displaying content to at least one user*, comprising:
        providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of data;
        on a display comprising a two-dimensional display region:
        simultaneously providing a plurality of discrete indicators within the two-dimensional display region for at least some of the discrete selectable items of data, which discrete indicators comprise at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to the discrete selectable items of data;
        providing a segregated display area within the two-dimensional display region;
        automatically causing relative movement as between the segregated display area and the plurality of discrete indicators by changing position along a dimension of the two-dimensional display region of one of the segregated display area and the plurality of discrete indicators;
        providing a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable items of data, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for each at least one user, wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across a plurality of media; and
        automatically displaying additional content as corresponds to the characterizing descriptors for a given one of the discrete indicators as interacts in a predetermined way, at least in part, with the segregated display area. [emphasis added]

15.   An interactive *automatic* data display system *for at least one user*, comprising:
        characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of data;
        a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable items of data, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for each at least one user, wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across a plurality of media; and
        control circuitry that:
        displays a plurality of discrete indicators within a two-dimensional display region for at least some of the discrete selectable items of data, which discrete indicators comprise at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to the discrete selectable items of data;
        provides a segregated display area within the two-dimensional display region;
        automatically causes relative movement as between the segregated display area and the plurality of discrete indicators by changing position along a dimension of the two-dimensional display region of one of the segregated display area and the plurality of discrete indicators;

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automatically displays additional content as corresponds to the characterizing descriptors for a given one of the discrete indicators as interacts in a predetermined way, at least in part, with the segregated display area. [emphasis added]

Consequently, Claims 2-8 and 16-19 now subsume the limitations of their respective base claims by dependency thereto.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully submits that Claims 1-8 and 15-19 have not been expressly or implicitly taught, suggested, motivated, or otherwise obviated by the cited art. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the grounds for rejection on this basis are withdrawn and that Claims 1-8 and 15-19 are passed to allowance in due course.

II.   Rejection of Claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 9-14 stand rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Knudson et al. (US 7386871), in view of Ahmad et al. (US 6263507), and in further view of Reisman (US 2004/0031058). Independent Claim 9 is herein amended to include the following limitations: "providing a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable items of data, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for each at least one user, wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across a plurality of media[.]" The Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds for rejection on this basis.

With respect to the primary cited reference, Knudson merely discloses: "A program guide system is provided in which an interactive television program guide that is implemented at least partially on user television equipment receives program listings data and real-time data such as sports scores, news data, and the like. The real-time data may be stored in a database maintained by the program guide, so that the program guide may access the stored real-time data at a later time. Updated program listings information may be provided to the program guide as part of the data stream in which the real-time data is provided. Unique keys may be generated for the program listings data and real-time data associated with each live event. The keys may be compared at the program guide to determine which program listings correspond to which items of real-time data. A

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controllable ticker may be displayed on top of a television program on the user television equipment. The controllable ticker may be sponsored. Different types of real-time data may be assigned different expiration times. When data has expired it may be removed from the database." (Abstract).

With respect to the secondary cited reference, Ahmad merely discloses: "The invention facilitates and enhances review of a body of information (that can be represented by a set of audio data, video data, text data or some combination of the three), enabling the body of information to be quickly reviewed to obtain an overview of the content of the body of information and allowing flexibility in the manner in which the body of information is reviewed. In a particular application of the invention, the content of audiovisual news programs is acquired from a first set of one or more information sources (e.g., television news programs) and text news stories are acquired from a second set of one or more information sources (e.g., on-line news services or news wire services). In such a particular application, the invention can enable the user to access the news stories of audiovisual news programs in a random manner so that the user can move quickly among news stories or news programs. The invention can also enable the user to quickly locate news stories pertaining to a particular subject. Additionally, when the user is observing a particular news story in a news program, the invention can identify and display related news stories. The invention can also enable the user to control the display of the news programs by, for example, speeding up the display, causing a summary of one or more news stories to be displayed, or pausing the display of the news stories. Additionally, the invention can indicate to the user which news story is currently being viewed, as well as which news stories have previously been viewed." (Abstract).

With respect to the tertiary cited reference, Reisman merely discloses: "Systems and methods for navigating hypermedia using multiple coordinated input/output device sets. Disclosed systems and methods allow a user and/or an author to control what resources are presented on which device sets (whether they are integrated or not), and provide for coordinating browsing activities to enable such a user interface to be employed across multiple independent systems. Disclosed systems and methods also support new and enriched aspects and applications of hypermedia browsing and related business activities." (Abstract).

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Regarding the cited art, the Examiner concedes that "the combined teachings of Knudson and Ahmad does not disclose providing a plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria [or] displaying the selectable items of data as corresponds to a present selection of a characterizing descriptor filter criterion," but the Examiner asserts that Reisman discloses: "One method that might be used to differentiate levels of service relates to the display of filtered and ranked program listings. Personalized EPG functions could, for instance, present only the programs expected to be desired by the user, perhaps in order of desirability, instead of a non-personalized, unfiltered mass of listings, whether organized in a grid, or in other listing structures, such as by genre or person ...."

In contrast to the cited art, the present invention method of herein amended independent Claim 9 involves the following features: "providing a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable items of data, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for each at least one user, wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across a plurality of media[,]" *inter alia*.

As such, the Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art does not teach, suggest, motivate, or otherwise obviate the combination of elements and limitations, *inter alia*, as recited in herein amended independent Claim 9, the salient features being italicized as follows:

9.   A method *of automatically displaying content to at least one user*, comprising:
providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of data;
providing a plurality of user-selectable characterizing descriptor filter criteria;
on a display comprising a two-dimensional display region:
simultaneously providing a plurality of discrete indicators within the two-dimensional display region for at least a portion of the discrete selectable items of data as corresponds to a present selection of a characterizing descriptor filter criterion, which discrete indicators comprise at least a portion of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to the discrete selectable items of data;
providing a segregated display area within the two-dimensional display region;
automatically causing relative movement as between the segregated display area and the plurality of discrete indicators by changing position along a dimension of the two-dimensional display region of one of the segregated display area and the plurality of discrete indicators;
providing a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable items of data, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for each at

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> least one user, *wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across a plurality of media; and*
>> automatically displaying additional content as corresponds to the characterizing descriptors for a given one of the discrete indicators as interacts in a predetermined way, at least in part, with the segregated display area. [emphasis added]

Consequently, Claims 10-14 now subsume the limitations of their respective base claims by dependency thereto.

Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 9-14 have not been expressly or implicitly taught, suggested, motivated, or otherwise obviated by the cited art. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the grounds for rejection on this basis are withdrawn and that Claims 9-14 are passed to allowance in due course.

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CONCLUSION

Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 9, and 15 have been herein amended and new dependent Claim 20 is herein added to better encompass the full scope and breadth of the present invention, notwithstanding the Applicants' belief that the Claims would have been allowable as originally filed as well as herein amended. The Applicants respectfully reassert that no claim has been narrowed within the meaning of *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co.* (Fed.Cir. November 29, 2000). Therefore, reconsideration of the present application in light of the foregoing amendment and these remarks is respectfully requested. ***The Examiner is further cordially invited to telephone the undersigned for any reason which would advance allowance of the pending claims.*** In the event that any additional fees become due or payable, the Examiner is authorized to charge USPTO Deposit Account No. 06-1135 accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 3/9/09

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